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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Greece

SUBJECT Alleged Communist Meetings in Athens

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- Fid 341*
1. On 4 March 1949, in compliance with a notice from the "Responsible", fourteen officials of the Communist Organization of Athens met to hold an Activ. These officials waited for the "Instructor" for several hours, but for reasons unknown he did not come, and so the Activ was not held. These fourteen persons are important officials of the Party, and they said that this Activ was the one which they were expecting for several days. They expected an analysis, instructions, orders, and general guidance. The "Instructor" for whom they waited in vain, so they said, is the one who is to come from outside Athens and who is to be accompanied by other persons from the Central Committee of KKE. The "Responsible" for this Activ told them that he would notify them as soon as possible where and when the Activ would take place, since it was very necessary that it should be held at the earliest possible moment.
  2. The Activ which was postponed was actually held on 9 March 1949. Twenty-eight persons attended, that is, 22 officials, the "Instructor" and five others who accompanied him. The "Instructor" was 50-55 years of age, dark, with greyish hair. The "Responsible" introduced him as Comrade Petros. The majority of the officials, as well as the "Instructor" and the five others who came with him, were unfamiliar persons who appeared for the first time at an Activ. The five who came with the "Instructor" and who left with him at the end of the Activ appeared from their movements and behavior to be his bodyguards.
  3. As soon as all those expected at the Activ arrived, the "Responsible" spoke briefly and introduced the "Instructor". After that the meeting began with the "Instructor's" speech. He made some prefatory remarks about the decision of the Fifth Plenum and the purges made recently by the Central Committee. He said that he would make a brief reference to the old intra-party business and to the old purges of the Communist Party, and then begin his principal address. Below is an account of the "Instructor's" remarks on the principal and most interesting points. (His speech was so long that it was impossible to get a full account of all of it; the Activ lasted more than 12 hours, i.e., from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.).
    - a. "Comrades, the first opportunistic split in our Party in 1926-1932 is familiar to all of us. It is also well known that following the sure guidance of the General Secretary, Comrade Zachariades, our Party became dynamic and virile and adopted the sound Lenin-Stalinist line after purging itself of all the elements which surrounded it.

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- b. "Afterwards came the period of 1936-1940 and the terrible persecutions of the Monarcho-fascist clique of Metaxas. But even then our Party struck strong blows, although they believed that they would destroy it with imprisonment, execution, and persecution.
- c. "Thus we come to the period of 1940-1941. All of us surely know the historic letter which Zachariades sent from prison at that time. Then again our Party gave the best men it had to the Monarcho-fascist enemy. We gave of our blood in vast streams to crush the double shark (sic). Then, too, the Communists were first in the struggle, and afterwards during the occupation our Party, far ahead of all the rotten old political parties of Greece, took the sound line and organized the national resistance, establishing the historic EAM and the glorious ELAS which accomplished so many marvels and heroic deeds, for which the Headquarters of the Middle East never ceased to praise it. All these things happened because our Party studied and applied the sound line of self-government after the first purge of unsound elements. The political "Instructor of EAM applied this line throughout Greece, and they shouted the right slogan, "Whatever the People want, and however they want to govern themselves!" Militarily ELAS used the slogan "Liberty and not Occupation!" To be sure then, too, our Party offered the best that it had in blood, and we know full well what this period cost us. It is enough to remember the 200 who were shot on May Day at the Athens shooting range.
- d. "We come now to that glorious December. After the defeat of Hitler and Mussolini by Greece, in which the greatest part was played by ELAS, EAM, and all the noble Greek people, then the traitorous and collaborationist Monarcho-fascist oligarchy of the country lifted up its head. These were the old, rotten political parties, and they were willing to enslave Greece to the capitalist England of Churchill. For this work they found the Gambler (Papandreou), because behind him were hidden all the treachery and rottenness of the country, Gonatas, Zervas, Tsalcaris, Rendis, Theotokis, and the rest. Our Party followed the line which it had set, and with it all the cooperating parties, ELD, AKE, RKE, AF, decided to intervene and not to permit the Second Occupation to come to our country. This resulted in a clash.....
- e. "Afterwards the Varkiza agreement was made. It was a condition of this agreement that free and honest elections should be held, and that the people should be unimpeded and free to select whatever constitution they wanted and to govern themselves as they wished. Then our Party set the same line again, but the foreign capitalistic intervention in our country did not permit this, and the terms of the agreement were not kept even to a limited extent. This happened because the foreign capitalistic occupation saw that the Greek people do not tolerate and do not want a foreign master on their necks.
- f. "Thus we come to the notorious elections of 1946. Then again our Party did not cease following its sound line, for at the 7 Congress it made the decision to take its stand, as the greatest political party in the country, at the side of the People for Liberty, Independence, and Self-Government. From that time until the formation of the Democratic Army of Greece our Party has given up to the cannibalistic Monarcho-fascist foreign and native beast whole rivers of blood for Liberty and Independence of the People."
- g. (At this point the speaker related how the Democratic Army was formed, what results it had achieved, and what it will accomplish. He announced the decision of the Fifth Plenum of the Central Committee of KKE and continued)

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- h. "Thus, comrades, we have reached the call for the Fifth Plenum of the Central Committee of our Party, whose decisions and discussions I shall analyze.
- i. "First Discussion. There are within the ranks of our Party and of the Democratic Army defeatists and opportunists (traitors), and in what echelons are they? The Plenum determined that they exist right in the bosom and in the leadership of the Party. For that reason the Plenum unanimously decided to purge these elements from our ranks. Now I ask you to tell me whether the Plenum did the right thing or not. Certainly it did the right thing (None of those present replied). If the Plenum, and particularly our great Instructor, Comrade Zachariades, had not discovered this affair in time, what would have happened? All the struggle would have been lost. All the blood and sacrifice of so many thousands of our comrades, both now and long ago, would have been overwhelmed by the wave of treachery, and surely all our Party would have been overwhelmed too. Therefore the Plenum decided to replace and to remove certain persons who were then holding important posts. The Plenum punished some of these persons with the penalty fit for the traitor, and it isolated others of them." (Here the speaker related the names of those punished as traitors or isolated).
- j. "Second Discussion. How will our Party follow the line, and how will it lead the struggle to final victory? The Plenum, after detailed discussion, reached a decision on these points, namely to follow the Marxist-Lenin-Stalinist line, which it has followed since its founding as the Communist Party of Greece. Why, Comrades, is the Monarcho-fascist clique disturbed by the decision taken by the Fifth Plenum on the Macedonian question? How did the Plenum state this question, and how did the Monarcho-fascist clique present it to its naive people? Perhaps when our Party comes to power it will rule the same way in the Peloponnesus or in Thessaly? Or will it send Nomarchs from Thrace to rule in the Peloponnesus, so that the government will obtain political advantages? Or will it send a Governor General from the Morea to Crete? No. Each locale, each Nome, each Eparchy, each town will be governed by local men, and these units will govern themselves within the framework of the State. This is what the decision says about Macedonia. One perhaps the Plenum of the Party does not know that Greek Macedonia is inhabited entirely by Greeks (sic)? And that if today a plebiscite were held the result would be an indisputable majority? The Party certainly does know this, but as a Communist Party it must handle such an affair in a way that will give satisfaction to the minority (sic), the Slavo-Macedonian populace. For our part we must not forget our obligations to these same Slavo-Macedonian forces in the struggle which we are now waging.
- k. "Where then, Comrades, do you see the dismemberment of Greece and the loss of Greek Macedonia, since you know full well that our Party in the past and in the present has expressly stated that it will fight to its last breath for the integrity and independence of our country's territory? So, Comrades, you see that on this question the Plenum made a sound decision.
- l. "For the conduct and continuation of the struggle the Plenum decided unanimously not to lay down its arms if it does not achieve final victory, but to recruit all its forces in the country with a united line and the aim of crushing the Monarcho-fascist enemy both native and foreign. The Party will strike that enemy with all the means available, and it will summon aid from all sides from all the sister Communist Parties, in the world. Therefore the first duty of every leader and every other Communist is to rouse the people against the capitalist oligarchy, both

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native and foreign . . . . .

- m. "Strike to the bone! Sabotage, smash, rend the enemy everywhere and always! This, Comrades, is the way things are going. This is the view we Communists must take, and not as the Reactionaries say. This is what we must tell the people and the base of the Party. Victory is ours!"

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4. There is scheduled another Activ at which certain higher officials will speak, in order to continue the discussion and to define the duties arising from the decision of the Fifth Plenum.

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